

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAMA 00919 271730Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 OES-06 SP-02
SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 FEA-01 PA-02 PRS-01
/101 W

-----272356Z 015062 /63

R 271232Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 4549
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI UAE
AMEMBASSY DOHA QATAR
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT OMAN
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IRAN
USIA WASHINGTON DC

UNCLAS MANAMA 919

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : ENRG, US

SUBJECT : BAHRAIN REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S ENERGY MESSAGE

1. PRESS REACTION TO THE PRESIDENT'S ENERGY MESSAGE HAS
THUS FAR BEEN INTERESTED BUT NONCOMMITTAL. THE SPEECH TO
THE NATION AS WELL AS THE CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION WERE
BOTH WELL-COVERED IN THE DAILY AND WEEKLY ARABIC PRESS OF
BAHRAIN. THE WEEKLY ENGLISH-LANGUAGE GULF MIRROR FRONT-PAGED
AND HEADLINED THE STORY, USING MASTHEAD QUOTATIONS FROM
THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE. HOWEVER, COVERAGE HAS BEEN STRAIGHT
REPORTING WITHOUT EDITORIAL COMMENTS. ONE REUTERS STORY,
DATELINED MANAMA, SUGGESTED THAT INITIAL REACTIONS OF LEADERS
OF OIL-PRODUCING STATES IN THE GULF WERE "FAVORABLE". WHILE
NO INDIVIDUAL NAMES WERE CITED FOR THIS VIEW, "SOURCES IN
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KUWAIT" WERE CREDITED WITH THE INFORMATION.

2. REACTION HAS BEEN INTERESTED AND INTENSE AMONG THOSE WHO
FOLLOW EXTERNAL EVENTS. AMBASSADOR AND OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS
HAVE HAD SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS WITH GOB MINISTERS AND AMBASSADORS
FROM OTHER ARAB STATES DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS. MOST APPEAR
TO HAVE FOUND THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE REALISTIC AND APPRO-

PRIATELY SOMBER. SOME HAVE QUESTIONED THE WILLINGNESS OF THE CONGRESS AS WELL AS THE PEOPLE TO MAKE THE SACRIFICES NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH THE PRESIDENT'S AIMS. IT DEFINITELY HAS BEEN NOTED HERE THAT THE PRESIDENT IMPLICITLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE IS NO SERIOUS EXPECTATION OF SUBSTITUTION FOR DEPENDENCE ON ARAB OIL OVER THE NEXT 15-20 YEARS.

3. PERHAPS THE MOST PROVOCATIVE, AND WE THOUGHT PERCEPTIVE, REACTION TO THE SPEECH WAS THAT OF GOB MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRIES (WHICH INCLUDES THE OIL DEPARTMENT) YUSUF SHIRAWI WHO TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE IS "DEEPLY WORRIED" ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE SPEECH. WHEN ASKED WHY, HE REPLIED: ONLY THE MOST FOOLISH AND LEAST THOUGHTFUL OF ARABS WILL TAKE SATISFACTION IN THE FACT THAT AMERICAN DEPENDENCE ON ARAB OIL HAS BEEN FRANKLY ACKNOWLEDGED FOR THE NEAR FUTURE; WISE AND THOUGHTFUL ARABS, ON THE OTHER HAND, SHOULD BE 'TERRIFIED' SINCE US DEPENDENCE WILL MEAN THAT ARAB OIL PRODUCERS WILL BE FOCUS OF CONTINUING AND EVEN INTENSIFIED USG ATTENTION. HE CONTINUED, TURNING TO TWO OF HIS CABINET COLLEAGUES AND THREE ARAB AMBASSADORS, REMINDING THEM OF THE ANT WHO SLEPT WITH THE ELEPHANT. WHEN EMBOFF SAID THAT SURELY IT WAS POSSIBLE FOR THE TWO TO WORK OUT SOME KIND OF SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP, MINISTER SHIRAWI REPLIED, LAUGHINGLY, THAT HE THOUGHT HISTORY SHOWED THAT EITHER THE ELEPHANT WOULD ROLL OVER IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT (THINKING OF OTHER THINGS) OR THAT THE BED STRUCTURE ITSELF WOULD COLLAPSE.

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 27-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
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